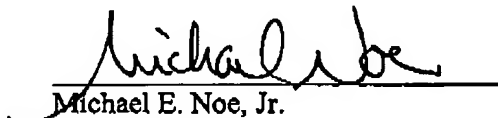


REMARKS

Applicant certainly appreciates the allowance of Claims 11-16 and the suggestions offered by the Examiner to overcome the objections to Claims 3 and 10. Accordingly, independent Claims 1 and 8 have been rewritten with the language of canceled Claims 3 and 10, respectively.

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested. No fee for an extension of time or other fees are believed to be required. However, in the event that one or more fees are required, please charge them to Hitachi Global Storage Technologies' Deposit Account Number 50-2587.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael E. Noe, Jr.
Reg. No. 44,975
BRACEWELL & GIULIANI, LLP
P.O. Box 61389
Houston, Texas 77208-1389
(512) 542-2135

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS